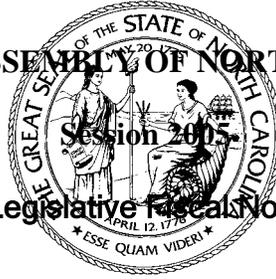


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 505 (Second Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Medical Examiner Fee Increase.-AB

SPONSOR(S): Senator Purcell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
REVENUES:					
General Fund	No Impact to General Fund				
OCME	\$232,125	\$238,025	\$244,100	\$250,300	\$256,675
EXPENDITURES:					
General Fund	No Impact to General Fund				
DHS	\$44,150	\$45,025	\$45,925	\$46,825	\$47,750
County governments	\$187,975	\$193,000	\$198,175	\$203,475	\$208,925
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, DHS, county governments					
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005					

BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 505 raises the fee paid to medical examiners for a postmortem investigation and report from \$75 to \$100.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. The OCME maintains a network of 600 medical doctors throughout North Carolina who voluntarily devote their time to investigate deaths of a suspicious, unusual or unnatural nature. Under current law, the medical examiner receives a \$75 fee paid by the State unless the deceased is a resident of the county in which the death or fatal injury occurred. If the deceased is a resident of the county in which they are found, the county pays the fee. No fee is paid to the Mecklenburg County medical examiner

who examines the death of a Mecklenburg County resident, and no fee is paid to the OCME or the Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner when the state, not the county, is liable for the \$75 fee.

Based on historical data, the projected number of medical examiner cases is shown below, followed by the estimated increase in total revenue from the \$25 increase over the current \$75 fee.

Projected number of medical examiner cases					
Number of cases	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cases paid by counties	7,519	7,720	7,927	8,139	8,357
Cases paid by state	1,766	1,801	1,837	1,873	1,910
No payment	918	965	1,014	1,065	1,119
Total	10,203	10,486	10,778	11,077	11,386

Projected new fee revenues from Senate Bill 505					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Paid by counties	\$ 187,975	\$ 193,000	\$ 198,175	\$ 203,475	\$ 208,925
Paid by state	\$ 44,150	\$ 45,025	\$ 45,925	\$ 46,825	\$ 47,750
No payment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 232,125	\$ 238,025	\$ 244,100	\$ 250,300	\$ 256,675

SOURCES OF DATA: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

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Fiscal Research Division



DATE: August 9, 2005

Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices